

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00016 111426Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 SY-05 CU-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

-----117269 111439Z /46

R 111145Z JAN 78

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2788

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, PINS, ELAB, SF

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENTS IN TURNER KILLING, MTSHALI ATTACK

REF: DURBAN 0012

1. POLICE HAVE PLEDGED TO USE ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO LOCATE THE KILLER OF PROFESSOR RICHARD TURNER AND THE ATTEMPTED KILLER OF STEPHEN MTSHALI, BUT ADMIT THERE ARE FEW LEADS. THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT THE TWO WERE SHOT WITH DIFFERENT CALIBRE WEAPONS AND REPORTS INDICATE THE POLICE BELIEVE MTSHALI WAS SHOT WITH A 7.62 CALIBRE TOKAREV MACHINE PISTOL, THE SAME TYPE POLICE BELIEVE WAS USED TO KILL SECURITY POLICE SERGEANT NKOSI LAST SEPTEMBER. POLICE HAVE REPORTEDLY DISCOUNTED ANY LINK BETWEEN THE TURNER AND MTSHALI SHOOTINGS. HOWEVER THEY DO SUSPECT THAT THE MTSHALI AND NKOSI SHOOTINGS WERE DONE BY THE ANC AND THAT THERE IS A DEFINITE LINK BETWEEN THE ATTACK ON THE MEER'S HOME LAST DECEMBER AND THE KILLING OF TURNER.

2. A DURBAN PAPER RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS PHONE CALL JANUARY

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9 FROM A PERSON "WITH AN AFRICAN ACCENT" WHO CLAIMED THE ANC AND THE "BLACK POWER MOVEMENT" WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL FOUR RECENT ATTACKS. THIS CONTENTION IS SUPPORTED AND AMPLIFIED BY SOME CONSERVATIVE PRESS ELEMENTS (BEELD, CITIZEN) WHICH ARE CARRYING STORIES FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TURNER AND THE POLICE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO DEMONSTRATE TURNER WAS MELLOWING IN HIS POLITICAL BELIEFS AND MIGHT EVEN

HAVE BEEN COOPERATING WITH THE SECURITY POLICE IN RETURN FOR HAVING HIS BANNING LIFTED THIS MARCH. THESE PAPERS ARE BYPOTHESIZING THAT THE ANC MAY HAVE BECOME AWARE OF THIS AND THEREFORE DECIDED TO ELIMINATE TURNER. COMMENT: WE HAVE TALKED WITH SOME OF TURNER'S CLOEST FRIENDS, INCLUDING THE COUPLE WHO SHARED HIS HOUSE, AND NONE OF THEM PUTS ANY CREDENCE IN THESE ALLEGATIONS. TO THE CONTRARY THEY STATE UNANIMOUSLY THAT HE WAS REVERED BY HIS WHITE ACTIVIST COLLEGUES AS PERHAPS THE MOST BRILLIANT AND POLITICALLY RADICAL THINKER AMONG THEM. WE ALSO TEND TO DISMISS THE ALLEGED "ANC" PHONE CALL AS A HOAX OR AS A CRUDE ATTEMPT TO SHIFT SUSPICION. ONE REASON FOR OUR BELIEF IS THAT THE CALLER CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THE ATTACK ON MEER RESIDENCE WHILE THE MEERS SEVERAL OF WHOM ARE BANNED, ARE WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF THE ANC. ALSO, THE EXTERNAL ANC IN LONDON REPORTEDLY HAS DENIED THAT IT WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR TURNER'S MURDER.

3. THERE ARE TO BE MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL MEMORIAL BURIAL SERIVES ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 14. FRIEND'S OF TURNER EXPECT A LARGE ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING LEADING LIBERAL AND ACADEMIC FIGURES. CHIEF BUTHELEZI, A CLOSE FRIEND OF TURNER, HAS INDICATED HE WILL ATTEND. CONGEN OFFICER WILL ALSO ATTEND. FARBER

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Message Attributes

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